

# REHEARSAL.

1. The Whigg Plot Reviv'd of bringing over the Next Heirs of the House of Hanover.
2. The High-Church Clear'd from this.
3. An Extraordinary Instance of Vortigern, and very a Propo.
4. The Consequences of this Design.
5. The Use that is made of the Act of Succession.
6. Proper Remedies to be Consider'd. Which Referr'd to her Majesty and the Parliament.

From Wednesday October the 17th to Wednesday October the 24th, 1705.

(1.) Rehearsal. **Y**OU have drawn me in, Country-man, to your now Wensdays's Clubb, to talk of Politicks which is not my Talent; I delight more in our Saturday's Conversation, upon the Point of Argument and Reason, of Fact and H. Scripture, which is a stronger Foundation! And the best Politicks too, if rightly Consider'd. For that has a Foundation. The other None. What can any Man Inferred, what Conclusions can be draw from the Intrigues of Politicians, as Wavering as the Wind, that move by no certain Rule, nor are Bounded by either Truth or Justice, or any thing that hinders Ambition, or Resentment! But come, since I am in, Go on with the New-Old-Plot you told me of last Wednesday, of Bringing over the House of Hanover hither, before their Time.

Country-m. I told you too, Master, that this was now set on Foot by one call'd an High-Church-Man. Which has Bewilder'd all my poor Politicks! I cannot Dive to the Bottom on't. Why? What's the Matter? Cry I, do's the High-fliers think the House of Hanover more High-Church than our Gracious Queen.

Rehears. That cannot be. For none can be High for any thing, before they have Learn'd it. Now they have no Bishops in Hanover. or ever had since the Reformation. But our Queen Receiv'd her Christianity under Episcopacy. And has continu'd Firm and Faithful to it to this Day. She Express'd her great Satisfaction in it, and her Zeal for it; and gave us her Assurance from the Throne, that she would always Protect and Encourage it; and in dispensing of her Royal Favours, would have a Distinguishing Regard to those who were most Zealous for it; and that she would take Care to have it Safely and Securely TRANSMITTED to Posterity, that it might not be Hurt by any shou'd come after her.

Now, Country-man, though we are not to Doubt but the illustrious House of Hanover, when they come to Ascend our Throne, that is, in GOD's time, according to HIS Law, and the Laws of England, when there Turn comes; will Conform themselves to our Laws and Constitution: And we are to Rest fully Satisfy'd and Secure in it; for we are always Safest in the Hands of Providence, when we Walk in HIS Ways, and Conform our selves to HIS Law, who Turns the Hearts of Kings, as the Rivers of Water, whithersoever he will: But I say, tho' all this be Sure and Certain, yet there is no manner of Ground for us to be Uneasy under our now Gracious Queen, or like Children fond of Novelties, to think we shou'd Mend the matter, by bringing in the House of Hanover, before their Time, or to Distress her Majesty by Placing them upon the Uppermost Step but one of the Throne, before her Face and against her Will! that is in plain English, Shouldering of her.

When her Majesty her self shall think fit to call over the young Prince who is to Succeed her, that he may be Instructed in our Religion, and Acquainted with our Laws and Constitution (which is the Present Pretence) Then we are to Acquiesce, and not Question but she has Wife and Good Reasons for it, and thinks her self sufficiently Secure.

But to Press and seek to Force her to it, has an Aspect need not be Explain'd! 'Tis making a little too much Haste.

How did it look, when the same year of her

Majesty's happy Accession to the Throne, that Book was Publish'd on the Whigg side Intitul'd Reasons for Inviting over the Princess Sophia and young Prince of Hanover? How Abhorrent was it in the Eyes of all Honest Men? And the Design was Plainly seen, and Expos'd by those of the High-Church. The Mercu. Politic. p. 131. says, that was An Improper time. But that now is a seasonable time. He gives no Reason. Therefore leaves us to Guess. And I will leave it so to Guess who will.

(2.) Only I desire, that this may not be Charg'd upon the High-Church. For whoever that Author is, or whatever his Design, I'm sure he Advances it upon Pure Whigg Principles. As p. 134. That the Estates of the Nation— are the Proper Judges of the Male-Administration of their King, and when it is fit to Depose him. That they are the Keepers of the Nations Conscience. and what they do is Obligatory to the Rest; and upon them will the Guilt remain, if an Unjust Judgment be given. No doubt it will! But will it Excuse those who follow such an Unjust Judgment? All the Estates of the Jews, their High-Priest and Elders their whole Sanhedrin Condemn'd their King, and Prefer'd a Robber and a Murderer before him. Did this Excuse the People from the Guilt of that Blood, which they Demanded upon the Persuasion and by the Authority of these Estates? Do's it not Lye still upon them and their Children? All the Estates of Israel forc'd David to Flie out of the Land for Absalom. Did this Excuse the People from the Sin of Rebellion? Were these Estates the Keepers of the Nation Conscience? And was what they did Obligatory to the Rest? Were the People Oblig'd in Conscience to Crucify CHRIST! To Depose David, because the Estates bade them do it! Are these High-Church-PRINCIPLES?

But in the next Place, is this Pursuant to the Laws of the Land? Do's not our Law say, that the King can do no Wrong? that he never Dies? This secures both the Person of the King, and the Succession from all Violence.

And what are the Estates of the Land? Are they not all made such by the King? Let them shew any other Original! And when the three Estates, the Lords Spiritual, the Lords Temporal, and the Commons are Assembled, is it not by the KING's Writ, and by his Authority? Can they Assemble themselves without it? If they shou'd, what wou'd such an Assembly be Deem'd in the Eye of the Law? An Unlawful Assembly! A Rout! a Riot! And in the very Attempt Guilty of Treason! So that the Law knows no Estates without the King. And Declares 13. Car. 2. c. 1. That the Estates have no Legislative Authority without the King. And 12. Car. 2. c. 30. That neither the Estates nor the People, either Collectively or Representatively, have, or ever had, or ought to have any Coercive Power over the King. And 13. Car. 2. c. 6. That the Power of the Sword is wholly and solely in the King, and that neither or both Houses of Parliament or any Persons whatsoever within his Majesty's Dominions can Raise or Levy any War, either Offensive or Defensive against his Majesty, his Heirs or Lawful Successors. Is not all this the Law of the Land? Can it be Deny'd! What is then the setting up the Estates of the Land, not only as Co-Ordinate, but Superior to the King! As his Judges, who may Call him to Account, and Judge him no longer a King! What is this short of the 30th. of January! And is this the Doctrine of the High-Church? Do's this Author

write upon the Principles? Therefore let not High-Church be Chang'd with this! 'Tis only to serve a Turn.

(3.) Among other Arguments for bringing over the House of Hanover, he says, p. 134. That *Vortigern* the British King was Deserted by his People, for Attempting to bring over the SAXONS for that is, endeavouring to Subject them to the Dominion of FOREIGNERS. How this serves his Purpose, I know not, I leave it to himself to Explain.

(4.) Country-man. But after all, Master, What Harm wou'd it be to her Majesty, if some of the next Heirs of the House of Hanover shou'd come over hither;

Rehears. I leave that to her Majesty's Wisdom. I will not take upon me to Determine of such Points.

Only this I observe, That Q. Eliz. cou'd never be Prevail'd upon (though often Press'd to it, even by the Parliament) to Declare her Successor, till she was near her Death. She call'd it, putting on her Winding Sheet.

And our present Queen did not Declare her Successor. That was Done to her Hand. In true Kindness to her, no Doubt!

And it is likewise Observable, That the late K—William did not set forward the Succession of Hannover, till he found himself near his Death. He did not Desire it in his own Time. Only left it as a Legacy to Another! Which shews the Wisdom of all these Princes.

(5.) And we now see the Reason of it in Fact. For every Discontented Party make use of the Succession as a Handle, and Play Hanover against her Majesty, when she do's not Please them. The Whiggs were once Discontented: they began this Game. And taught others the way. Nor is that Illustrious House any way to Blame. They cannot Help it. They Cannot Resist the Solicitations made to them. And are less able to Judge of the Representations from several Parties, in that they are Foreiners, and Strangers to our Country and Constitution. And few apply to them, but who have Designs. And if they apply to them, at that Distance; what wou'd they do if they were Nearer? How easily might they then beget Jealousies betwixt the Court and the Rising Sun? How Impossible wou'd it be to be Avoided? This wou'd be a Perpetual Fund of Jealousie. This is the Bone of Contention betwixt England and Scotland. This is the Hopes and the Fears, of the Seditions and the Loyal, of the Restless and the Peaceable, of Whigg and Tory, of the High and Low Church. Upon this these Distinctions have been Begor: This is made the Asylum of Faction, the Presence of those who wou'd be thought to love the Succession, but have not Patience to wait for its coming Regularly; but wou'd Anticipate and Distrust to Providence; And have it in their own Time and Way! And for the Good of the Protestant Religion, wou'd wish the Q—in Heaven!

But whenever that Day comes, which we Hope will be Late, I dare undertake to say, without being a Prophet, that Some will find themselves Disappointed,

Country-m. Wou'd you not wish then the Succession of the House of Hanover.

Rehears. I rather wish the Queen had Issue of her own. And that the Crown may Ever continue in the same Royal Line. I speak not against the Succession, but the Speedy, which some Men Pray for! For Speedy Succession to One is Speedy Removal to Another. Which Explains the Meaning of those who Deafen us with the Succession, and wou'd have us Think of Nothing else.

But, Country-man, I wou'd have it Rest. There's as much done in it already, as the Wisdom of the Nation thought Necessary. And I wou'd have no Man Presume to Push it Further. I hope none will. It wou'd be an Irreparable Prejudice to the Church, if any such Attempt shou'd be Made.

But I wou'd not be Mistaken, as if I were an Enemy to the Succession of the House of Hanover, in God's own Time, and when his Providence makes way for it, according to Truth and Right. Far be it from me to Limit PROVIDENCE!

or Desire to Anticipate it. And if Providence brings the House of Hanover thus to the Throne, it is every Man's Duty to Submit and Obey, according to their Hereditary Right; which is Recogniz'd in our Act of Succession. And as tell'd by our Observators, Reviews, and the Rest of the Scandalous and Whigg Papers. As I have shew'd before, Num. 25. and elsewhere. And Prov'd. that these are Profess'd Enemies to the Succession of the House of Hanover, as Sett'd in our Act of Succession. And will be as Good Subjects to them, when their Turn comes, as they have been to their Predecessors!

But on the other Hand Country-man, the Principle of the High Church is, that whenever the Turn of the House of Hanover comes, Fairly according to Law, and without foul Play, they ought to be Obey'd, as the Ordinance of God. Nay even though they shou'd be Guilty of several Mal-Administrations. And Threaten Religion too. Though they shou'd be Lutherans in Germany; Episcopal in England; and Presbyterians in Scotland. Yet that all this, wou'd not Dissolve our Allegiance. Or alter the Succession in the Hereditary Line. And they wou'd then Judge who were the best Subjects to them; the High or the Low Church, the Whigg or the Tory, the Episcopal or the Dissenter, the Jure Divino or the Common-Wealth-Men.

(6.) Country-m. It Grieves me, Master, to think that there shou'd be such men who will never let us be at Quiet. Who make a Handle of the Succession to Disturb her Majesty in her Government. And though she shou'd Change her Ministry and her Measures a 100 times, it wou'd be no Remedy, For as the Whiggs at first, and Now some that call themselves Church-Men, so the Party that conceive themselves Disoblig'd will Always take Hold of the same Handle, and Cry, come let us bring over the Prince of Hanover! Thinking to Intimidate her Majesty, and Weaken her Government!

But Master, is there no Remedy for these things? Can no way be thought of to take this Handle and Pretence out of their Hands, who we find make such ill use of it? And are ever like to do!

Rehears. It becomes not me, Country-man, to Prescribe to the Queen or the Parliament. And the Remedy lies There. And I leave it to their Wisdoms to find out Proper Remedies for this Growing Evil, which so Terribly Threatens them.

I am not a Kin to your former Master, who thinks it the Right and Privilege of every Subject, to thrust in his Oare and give his Opinion in all Matters of State. And therefore takes that Liberty to himself, in very Insolent Manner. But I have taught you more Deference and Regard to Government. Therefore desire you to keep within your Bounds.

Country-m. I will if I can! But just now Here, Look y<sup>e</sup> Here the Politick Mercury. Num. 35. is brought to me. And, as if you had seen it before you tell the meaning of what he wou'd be at, and the Summing up of his Story. That the Import of bringing over the Prince of Hanover, is to Diverst, or which is the same, to Shave the Government with her Majesty. Or as you have Express'd it, to Help her to Govern. Thus Mildly he Expresses it, p. 137. That the Queen can't see all things with her own Eyes. And we shall have some Body here, to Watch the Interest of the Nation, whose own Concern and proper Interest it will be to see, that all things Go right, and who will be above the Aim or Expectation from Ministers. That is, that the Queen is not Above that Aim or Expectation! And who Depend most upon the Ministry? The Queen, who can Change them at her Pleasure? Or those who must Work by them? And is it not the QUEEN's own Concern and proper Interest? And do's not she Watch the Interest of the Nation? And ought not she to see That all things go Right? Is not this her Interest, as much as of any Other? This needs no Comment! What is this, but taking Possession? Proper Intuition Imperium! And to put the Q— under Pupillage.